
Subject: Re: Price Justification , Was: Computing Speed

Posted by [bowler](#) on Thu, 19 Feb 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) tapped on the keyboard to say:

> Helge Rebhan (Helge.Rebhan@REMOVE-THIS.gmx.net) writes:

>

>> You will also save a significant amount of money for your IDL licences !

>> Out of some 'historic' reasons IDL on Unix workstations is 3 to 5 times

>> more expensive than PC or MAC versions ! I never heard any justification

>> for this ??

>

> But, on the other hand, if RSI flooded the student market

> with cheap \$200 software that was fully functional and got

> all those potential users BEFORE they purchased PV-Wave or

> MatLab, THEN lowering prices would certainly make a lot of

> sense. At least to me. :-)

I'll throw my \$0.02 hat into the ring.

I work in a fairly competitive, 100% soft-money research environment. If we *have to have* a certain piece of software for a project we write the cost of that software into a grant proposal. If the software isn't required, it doesn't get bought. We recently started a new project where we needed IDL on a couple of Sun workstations, no problem. It's our first experience with IDL. I'd like to "play" a little with IDL to learn it (nothing like "hands on training"), but the Sun's just don't fit in my briefcase, whereas a laptop does. The upshot is that either I take longer to learn IDL (because I'm not willing to spend the extra time at work) or my Wife sees less of me (because I am willing to spend the extra time at work). If a fully functional IDL license for a PC was 10% of what it costs now (I find it really hard to believe that *anyone* can justify \$1500 for a single user PC license), both my boss and my wife would be happy...

Oh well, thanks for letting me rant.

Bruce
